

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8 and amend claims 9-12 and 16 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Preliminary Amendment are presented as follows:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A cup-type beverage vending machine, comprising:

- a cup stage on which a cup is located;
- a beverage pouring section for pouring beverage into a cup; and
- a conveying device for reciprocating the cup stage between a beverage pouring position and a product taking-out position,

wherein said machine has:

- a cup holder mechanism which holds the cup on said cup stage when the cup stage is situated other than said product taking-out position, while releases holding condition of the cup when the cup stage is situated in the product taking-out position;
- a cup sensor for detecting the cup on the cup stage; and
- a control ~~means~~ device which can control so as to pour the beverage from said beverage pouring section when the cup sensor detects the cup on the cup stage.

10. (Currently Amended) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 9, wherein said control ~~means~~ device can control said conveying ~~means~~ device so as to move the cup stage to said product taking-out position after pouring the beverage into the cup.

11. (Currently Amended) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 10, wherein said control ~~means~~ device can control said conveying ~~means~~ device so as to return the cup stage to said beverage pouring position when the cup sensor does not detect the cup after moving the cup stage to said product taking-out position.

12. (Currently Amended) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 11, wherein the door of the product taking-out port is opened and closed by ~~the~~ an opening device, and said control ~~means~~ device can control the opening device so as to open the door after pouring the beverage into the cup.

13. (Original) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 12, wherein said cup stage has ~~the~~ a cup holding block formed so as to surround the cup from its side surfaces to its rear surface, and said cup sensor is provided on a side surface of the cup holding block.

14. (Original) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 13, wherein said cup sensor is an optical sensor.

15. (Original) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 9, wherein said cup sensor is a pressurized conductive rubber located on a bottom wall of the cup stage.

16. (Currently Amended) The cup-type beverage vending machine according to claim 9, wherein said cup sensor is a microswitch embedded in ~~the~~ a bottom wall of the cup stage.